

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 016556
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SOPN, PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT'S PRESS GUIDANCE ON CHARTER 77

DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED FOLLOWING ON AN IF ASKED BASIS:

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DOING ABOUT THE
PERSECUTION OF DISSIDENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA?

ANSWER: AS WE UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA,
SOME THREE HUNDRED INDIVIDUALS HAVE PETITIONED THE GOVERN-
MENT TO GUARANTEE THE RIGHTS ACCORDED THEM BY THE CZECHO-
SLOVAK CONSTITUTION, THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON CIVIL
AND POLITICAL AND ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS,
AND BY THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. WE HAVE NOTED THAT THE
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SIGNERS OF CHARTER 77 EXPLICITLY STATE THAT IT IS NOT A
DOCUMENT OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION. SOME OF THE SIGNERS
HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN DETAINED OR HARRASSED.

AS YOU KNOW, THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT PROVIDES THAT "IN THE
FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, THE PART-
ICIPATING STATES WILL ACT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PURPOSES

AND PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UN AND WITH THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY WILL ALSO FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATIONS AS SET FORTH IN THE INTERNATIONAL DECLA-

RATIONS AND AGREEMENTS IN THIS FIELD, INCLUDING INTER ALIA THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, BY WHICH THEY MAY BE BOUND."

ALL SIGNATORIES OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT ARE PLEDGED TO PROMOTE, RESPECT AND OBSERVE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS FOR ALL. WE MUST STRONGLY DEPLORE THE VIOLATION OF SUCH RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS WHEREVER THEY OCCUR.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment:
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: DEPARTMENT'S PRESS GUIDANCE ON CHARTER 77 DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED FOLLOWING ON AN IF ASKED BASIS:
QUESTION: WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DOING A
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